

## THREE NEW INSECT RECORDS FOR THE AUCKLAND AREA, NEW ZEALAND

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*Abstract.* Three insect species, *Modicogryllus lepidus* (Walk.) (Orthoptera: Gryllidae), *Gislenia fulva* (Sauss.) (Blattariae: Blattellidae), and *Lampides boeticus* (L.) (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae), are recorded for the first time in Auckland and in New Zealand.

The three insect species recorded are new to the Auckland area. These are probably new records for New Zealand. One butterfly species, which may be a wind-borne immigrant, appears to be established. The other two species, a cricket and a cockroach, were probably introduced with imported goods. None of them are recorded as interceptions by Manson & Ward (1968).

|        |            |
|--------|------------|
| Order  | ORTHOPTERA |
| Family | GRYLLIDAE  |

**Modicogryllus lepidus** (Walker) (Fig. 1)

The mature male is 17 mm in length, being smaller than the common black field cricket, *Teleogryllus commodus* (Walk.), and larger than the

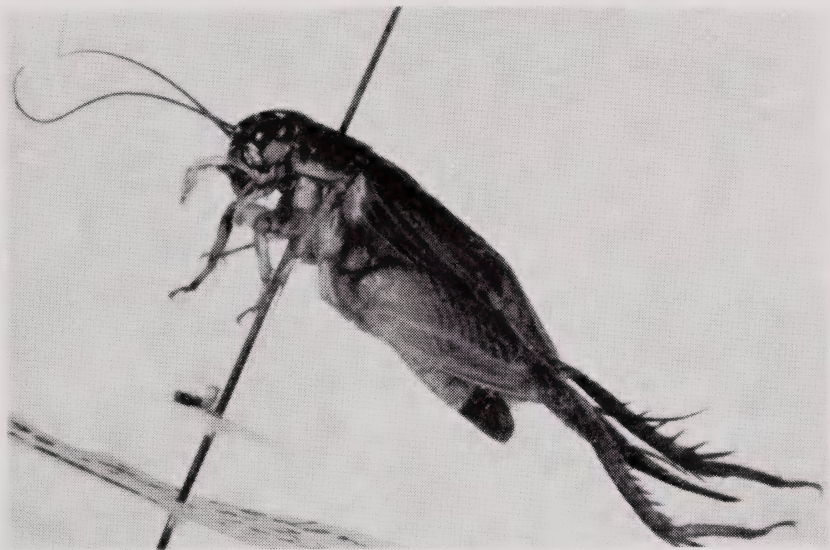


FIG. 1—*Modicogryllus lepidus* (Walk.).

endemic small black crickets, *Lissotrachelus* spp. It is paler than *T. commodus*, being brown to black on the dorsal surface, creamy-white on the ventral surface and basal portions of the legs.

In February 1966, one male, of this species, was captured in a garden at Clevedon, south of Auckland. Mr. H. R. McKenzie, who presented the specimen, reported that it first attracted attention by its song, which is distinct from that of the common black field cricket. A similar song had been heard at the same place some years before, which suggests that a colony may be established in the area. This species is common in Australia, New Caledonia, and Norfolk Island.

|          |               |
|----------|---------------|
| Order    | BLATTARIAE    |
| Suborder | EPILAMPROIDEA |
| Family   | BLATTELLIDAE  |

***Gislenia fulva* (Saussure)** (Fig. 2)

The male is a uniform light brown in colour. It is 22mm in length, being smaller than the American cockroach, *Periplaneta americana* L., and larger than the German cockroach, *Blattella germanica* L.

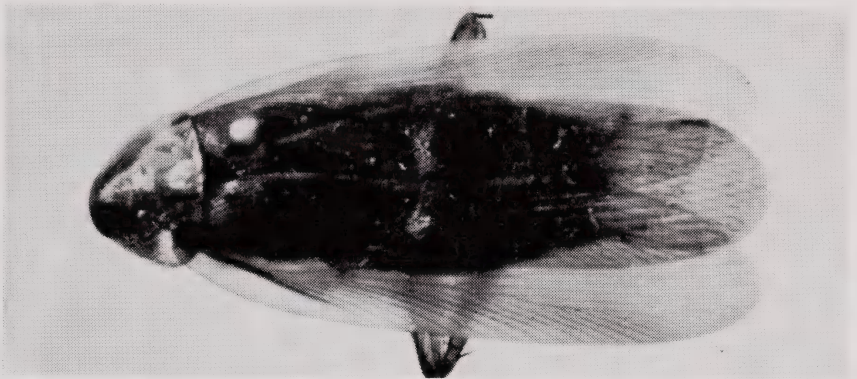


FIG. 2—*Gislenia fulva* (Sauss.).

Two males were taken in South Auckland, in March 1968, one in a house at Otahuhu by Mrs. A. T. Panckhurst, the other at North Papatoetoe Primary School. These occurrences were probably within two or three miles of each other. The species is apparently common in *Eucalyptus* forests in south-western Australia.



FIG. 3—*Lampides boeticus* (L.)

Order           LEPIDOPTERA  
 Superfamily   PAPILIONOIDEA  
 Family         LYCAENIDAE

***Lampides boeticus* (L.)**           (Fig. 3)

A small blue butterfly with a wing-span of 28-32 mm, being larger than the common blue butterfly, *Zizina otis labradus* (Godt.)\*. Wings above are vivid blue-violet. The hindwing has two obvious dark marginal spots, both above and below, and arising between these is a short thin tail.

This is a common Australian butterfly known as the 'pea blue'. A sighting in Auckland was reported to the author during the 1967-68 summer season by Mr. Martin Burnell (of Auckland, previously of Australia) who later, March 1968, collected the species at St. Heliers Bay and Ellerslie. In March also, Master Brian Billing collected and reported specimens in Avondale. During a survey, on 24 March, Burnell and the author found eggs on sweet pea flowers (*Lathyrus* sp. cult.), larvae in the flowers, and adults at Ellerslie. Many adults were seen in Avondale and eggs were found on gorse flowers (*Ulex europaeus* L.) which the adults were visiting. No butterflies were found in the Waitakere Ranges, but they were again collected at Sunnyvale, near Henderson, where eggs were also found on gorse flowers. Thus this butterfly was widespread in the Auckland suburban area at that time. On 30 March, the author collected two adults on gorse flowers at Tauranga Bay, near Whangaroa Harbour, ca. 226 km.

\* Recently, Stempffer (1967, *Bull. Brit. Mus. (Nat. Hist.) Ent. Suppl.* 10) has re-defined the genera *Zizeeria* Chapman, 1910, and *Zizina* Chapman, 1910, confirming that they are distinct. Consequently, contrary to a previous opinion (Wise, 1965, *N.Z. Ent.* 3 (4) : 19), the present author now accepts the combination *Zizina otis labradus* (Godart).



(ca. 141 miles) farther north. Since then a further report, of specimens collected at Kohimarama, Auckland, between 30 January and 2 February 1968, by Mr. C. R. Craw of Wellington, has been received. Brian Billing has advised that he succeeded in rearing a larva from a gorse flower in Avondale. The pupal stage lasted approximately one week and the adult emerged on 27 May 1968. Recently, Mr. Ian Stringer, of Auckland, has kindly presented a specimen he collected over two years ago. The data label with the specimen reads "Palm Beach, Waiheke Island, Auckland, Legume, 20 Nov. 1965 Ian Stringer".

It seems possible that individuals arrived in New Zealand from Australia, in 1965 or before, and that the species has since established itself in this country. It is hoped that this attractive butterfly will be a permanent addition to our fauna. Auckland is a port and this species may have been accidentally introduced, but it is likely that the butterflies were blown across the Tasman Sea, as many others have been before. The occurrence in the far north of New Zealand supports the latter alternative.

The pea blue butterfly commonly flies a few feet off the ground with a rapid flight which is distinct from the slower, low flight of the common blue butterfly.

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